

Date of Hearing: July 1, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

SCR 21 (Bates) – As Amended June 5, 2019

**SENATE VOTE:** 38-0

**SUBJECT:** Costa Mesa Fire Captain Michael Kreza Memorial Highway

**SUMMARY:** Designates the portion of State Route 55 from 19th Street to MacArthur Boulevard in the County of Orange as the “Costa Mesa Fire Captain Michael Kreza Memorial Highway.” Specifically, **this resolution:**

- 1) Recounts the life of Costa Mesa Fire Captain Michael Kreza.
- 2) Designates the portion of State Route 55 from 19th Street (PM 2.021) to MacArthur Boulevard (R6.985) in the County of Orange as the “Costa Mesa Fire Captain Michael Kreza Memorial Highway.”
- 3) Requests that the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) determine the costs of erecting the appropriate signs consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the special designation, and upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the costs, to erect the signs.

**EXISTING LAW:** Assigns Caltrans the responsibility of operating and maintaining state highways including the installation and maintenance of highway signs.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown, but the resolution requests that Caltrans only erect the appropriate signage upon receiving donations from non-state sources covering the cost.

**COMMENTS:** The author seeks to honor Costa Mesa Fire Captain Michael Kreza, who was the son of a police officer and grew up in the Irvine, California. He chose to follow his father’s footsteps into a career protecting the public and enrolled in fire science classes at Santa Ana College after high school. He started his career with the Orange County Fire Authority as a Paid Call Firefighter, and then returned to school, graduating from the Crafton Hills Fire Academy in 1993. He continued to train as a first responder while working with the Hoag Hospital Irvine Emergency Department and he graduated from the Paramedic Program at Saddleback College in 1997. After working in both Seattle and Las Vegas, Captain Kreza returned to California as a firefighter for the Big Bear Fire Department and joined the Costa Mesa Fire and Rescue Department in 2000.

During his 18-year tenure with the Costa Mesa Fire and Rescue, Captain Kreza served as an inspiring role model and shared his experience and leadership by serving as a member of the Tools and Equipment Committee, managing a charity fund, and participating in the Honor Guard. While serving in Costa Mesa, Captain Kreza also became an accomplished Ironman athlete and earned a bachelor’s degree from Columbia Southern University. Captain Kreza passed away on November 5, 2018, at age 44. He is survived by his wife and three daughters.

Writing in support, the Costa Mesa Fire Fighters Association states that, “his character, integrity, and passion served as an inspiration to his fellow firefighters, the community, and the countless individuals whose lives he touched.”

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

California Fire Chiefs Association  
California Professional Firefighters  
City of Costa Mesa  
Costa Mesa Fire Fighters Association  
Orange County Fire Chiefs Association  
Ten Private Citizens

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Melissa White / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093